

COMBINED ARMS: WARFIGHTING FUNCTIONS MANEUVER AND FIRES DISCUSSION STUDENT SCENARIO

Problem 1

1. Orientation

You are the company commander of Company A. The area of operations is characterized by gently rolling terrain, which is generally trafficable for cross-country movement of tracked vehicles. The roads depicted in the maneuver exercise are hard-surface, four-lane roads. Wheeled vehicles will be restricted to the hard-surface roads in most cases. Although there are some small streams, they are insignificant to tracked vehicles. Streams may slow movement temporarily but will not require engineering assets to cross. The Big Blue River is a significant obstacle to wheeled and tracked vehicles. However, it may be forded in some areas. The trees in the wooded areas are large enough and close enough together to prevent the movement of tanks and AAVs. Centreville is a small rural town of fewer than 2,500 people. You may assume, that unless otherwise informed, you have friendly units on your flanks and to the left and right of your battalion. You have been engaged with the enemy for two weeks. You are part of a battle-hardened unit that is over its initial psychological excitement. There are fewer opportunities for surprise for either side at this point in the conflict.

2. Task Organization

7th Marine Regiment (-)(Rein)
1st Battalion (-)(Rein)
2d Battalion (-)(Rein)
1st Tank Battalion (-)(Rein)

1st Battalion (-)(Rein)
1st Battalion (minus Company C, which is attached to 1st Tank Battalion)
AAV Company (Sufficient assets to lift your entire battalion plus Battalion CP)
Company C, 1st Tank Battalion

Company A, 1st Battalion
Company A (minus one rifle platoon attached to Company C, 1st Tank Battalion)
1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Tank Battalion (4 M1A1 Tanks)
TOW Squad (2 TOWs)
Javelin Section (8 Javelin launchers)

3. Situation

- a. General. Omitted
- b. Battlespace. See attached sketch.

- c. Enemy forces. The enemy was unsuccessful at preventing the landing and the subsequent initial operations ashore of the MEB. Although the enemy has been pushed back, he has shown that he is a resilient fighter by his determined defense of selected terrain and by his ferocious and immediate counterattacks when he has been pushed off key terrain. The Big Blue River appears to be an obstacle on which he could make a determined defensive stand while building up sufficient combat power to switch to the offense. He currently has three mechanized infantry divisions (MIDs) strung throughout the area. Within 96 hours he can reinforce with two National Guard-type units of division size. Most of his units possess some type of mobility, either BMP-1s or BTR-60s. He is at approximately 70 percent strength for personnel and equipment. He is organized on the Russian model and possesses a wide variety of Warsaw Pact-type equipment manufactured both before and after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. He is formed along the lines of the Russian Mechanized Division, although he has significantly less artillery and only limited air defense assets. His aviation assets include both fixed-wing aircraft and attack helicopters. His tanks range from old T-55 tanks to T-72 tanks. In our zone, the enemy has deployed a reinforced brigade with UAV coverage as part of the MIDs' defensive scheme.
- d. Friendly forces. The MEB was initially successful. However, a typhoon struck the maritime prepositioning ship squadron (MPSRON), one of the elements of the maritime prepositioning force (MPF) that was bringing a large quantity of supplies and equipment essential for the remainder of the MEB to become an effective combat force. This same weather condition has reduced rotary-wing aviation support and UAV flights. It has also reduced the flow and buildup of supplies. Combat power throughout the area of operations has built up more slowly than anticipated.
- i. Higher. At H-hour, 7th Marines conducts a mechanized attack and attacks in zone with two task forces forward and one task force in reserve.
- ii. Adjacent. One mechanized infantry battalion task force attacks in zone to destroy enemy in the vicinity of CP 8 in order to prevent the enemy from interfering with the main effort.
- iii. Supporting. 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, is in general support of the regiment.
- e. Mission. At H-hour, 1st Battalion attacks in zone to destroy the enemy in the vicinity of Battalion Objectives A, B, and C in order to prevent the enemy from interfering with the regiment's main effort.

4. Execution

- a. Commander's Intent. Overview: Elements of the enemy mechanized infantry brigade will change from delaying tactics to a positional defense to take advantage of the strong defensive terrain. I believe the enemy will attempt to destroy the bridge in our zone and defend the crossing site with a battalion-sized unit initially, while accepting risk elsewhere to take advantage of the river as an obstacle. If we seize the bridge intact, the regimental commander will have more opportunities to decisively commit his reserve.
 - i. The enemy's center of gravity (COG) is the enemy unit controlling key terrain surrounding the Big Blue River bridge in our zone.
 - ii. I believe the enemy critical vulnerability is his inability to establish strong, mutually supporting defensive positions because of our rapid advance and manner in which we have maintained contact. I intend to exploit this vulnerability by rapidly attacking the enemy in the vicinity of CP 8 to prevent his interference with the regiment's main effort.
 - iii. Endstate: Enemy units defending the crossing sites in our zone destroyed, a regimental-sized bridgehead established in our zone, and Route 610 opened to Centreville to pass the regiment's reserve.
- b. Concept of Operations: At H-hour, 1st Battalion attacks in zone with one mechanized infantry company, one mech-heavy company team, and one tank-heavy company team to destroy the enemy in the vicinity of Battalion Objectives A, B, and C. Main Effort (ME): One mechanized infantry company attacks in zone to destroy enemy forces in the vicinity of Battalion Objective A in order to prevent the enemy from interfering with the regiment's main effort. Supporting Effort 1 (SE 1): One mech-heavy team attacks along Axis Tyler and seizes Battalion Objective C in order to support the battalion main effort's attack on Battalion Objective A. Reserve: One tank-heavy team is prepared to exploit success by continuing the attack to Centreville. Priority of fires: Initially to SE 1, then it shifts to the ME after SE 1 consolidates.
- c. Tasks
 - i. Company A (SE 1)
 - (a) At H-hour attack along Axis Tyler to seize Battalion Objective C in order to support the battalion main effort's attack on Battalion Objective A.
 - (b) Upon completion of the main effort's attack on Battalion Objective A, continue the attack to destroy enemy forces in the vicinity of Battalion Objective B.
 - (c) On order, displace to checkpoint 4 and establish a blocking position oriented north-northeast in order to prevent enemy counterattacks from the vicinity of Centreville (Regimental Objective 1).

- ii. Company B (ME)
 - (a) At H-hour, attack in zone to destroy enemy forces in the vicinity of Battalion Objective A in order to prevent the enemy from interfering with the regiment's main effort.
 - (b) Upon completion of your attack on Battalion Objective A, support by fire Company A's attack on Battalion Objective B.
 - (c) Upon consolidation orient to the northeast in order to block any enemy counterattacks.
 - (d) Be prepared to provide guides at designated passage points to pass the regimental reserve forward.
- d. Reserve. Company C, 1st Tank Battalion (-)(Rein). BPT attack NE to clear Route 610 of enemy and obstacles in order to open a route to Regimental Objective 1 for the regimental reserve.

BPT assume the mission of the ME.

- e. CCIR. Omitted
- f. Coordinating Instructions

- i. H-hour 0535
- ii. Commence movement from attack positions no earlier than 0415.
- iii. Report crossing of all phase lines and the LD.
- iv. FPOL instructions to be determined.

